

FEBRUARY 1962

MAGAZINE OF THE



NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY

PRICE 6d

SPASTICS NEWS



NATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CENTRES OF THE N.S.S.

SCHOOLS

THE THOMAS DELARUE SCHOOL

Dene Park, Tonbridge, Kent.
Telephone: Tonbridge 3859.
Headmaster:
H. B. Davies, Esq., M.B.E., B.Sc.(Econ.).
Chairman of the Board of Governors:
Douglas Delarue, Esq., J.P.
Secondary Modern and Grammar Education for Spastics of 11 years and over.
Accommodation 66.

THE CRAIG-Y-PARC SCHOOL

Pentyrch, Nr. Cardiff.
Telephone: Pentyrch 397.
Headmistress:
Mrs. C. M. Kearslake.
Chairman of the Management Committee:
Miss M. B. Jowett, M.B.E.
Primary Education for Spastics between 5 and 16 years.
Accommodation 49.

THE WILFRED PICKLES' SCHOOL

Tixover Grange, Duddington,
Nr. Stamford.
Telephone: Duddington 212.
Headmaster:
R. A. Pedder, Esq.
Chairman of the Management Committee:
Eric Smith, Esq.
Primary Education for Spastics between 5 and 16 years.
Accommodation: 60, 12 Day Pupils.

IRTON HALL SCHOOL

Holmrook, Cumberland.
Telephone: Holmrook 242.
Acting Headmistress:
Mrs. M. C. Slater.
Chairman of the Management Committee:
J. D. Herd, Esq.
Education for Spastics reputed to be below average intelligence.
Accommodation: 34.

INGFIELD MANOR SCHOOL

Five Oaks, Nr. Billingshurst, Sussex.
Telephone: Billingshurst 294.
Headmistress: Miss E. M. Varty.
Education for spastics aged 5-16 reputed to be below average intelligence.
Accommodation: 50.

ASSESSMENT CENTRE

HAWKSWORTH HALL

Guiseley, Leeds, Yorks.
Telephone: Guiseley 2914.
Principal: J. D. Johnson, Esq.
Assessment Centre for Spastic children between 5 and 13 years.
Accommodation: 24.

ADULT CENTRES

DARESBURY HALL

Daresbury, Nr. Warrington, Lancs.
Telephone: Moore 359.
Warden: F. W. Bellman, Esq.
Chairman of the Management Committee:
George Evans, Esq.
Residential Centre for Male Spastics aged from 16 to 35 years.
Accommodation: 26.

COOMBE FARM

Oaks Road, Croydon, Surrey.
Telephone: Addiscombe 2310.
Warden: F. W. Bowyer, Esq., M.A.
Chairman of the Management Committee:
R. Meek, Esq.
Residential Centre for Spastics aged from 16 to 25 years. Accommodation: 41.

PRESTED HALL & THE GRANGE

Feering, Kelvedon, Essex.
Telephone: Kelvedon 482.
Warden: J. H. Watson, Esq.
Chairman of the Management Committee:
Miss Mary Ruck, R.R.C.
Residential Centre for Spastics aged from 25 to 40 years. Accommodation: 31.

THE GRANGE:

High Street, Kelvedon.
Accommodates 13 Spastics over the age of 40 years.

TRAINING CENTRE

"SHERRARDS"

Digswell Hill, Welwyn, Herts.
Telephone: Welwyn Garden 2125.
Principal: E. L. Knight, Esq.
Chairman of the Management Committee:
The Hon. Lady Bowes Lyon.
Vocational Training Centre for young adult Spastics.
Accommodation: 31.

HOLIDAY HOTELS

ARUNDEL PRIVATE HOTEL

23, The Leas, Westcliff-on-Sea.
Telephone: Southend 476351.
Manageress: Miss M. Burden.
Chairman of the Management Committee:
H. F. Savage, Esq., J.P.
Hotel for Spastics and accompanying relatives or friends. Accommodation: 19.
Write to Manageress for bookings.

S.O.S. HOLIDAY HOTEL FOR SPASTIC CHILDREN

Colwall Court, Bexhill.
Telephone: Bexhill 1491.
Manager: F. E. Chappell, Esq.
Chairman of the Management Committee:
David Jacobs, Esq.
Accommodation: 23.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS AFFILIATED TO THE N.S.S.

DAME HANNAH ROGERS SCHOOL

Ivybridge, Devon.
Telephone: Ivybridge 461.
Headmistress:
Miss B. G. Sutcliffe.
Chairman:
Norman Capener, Esq., F.R.C.S.
Residential School for 50 cerebral palsied children, boys and girls, between the ages 5 and 16.

PERCY HEDLEY SCHOOL

Forest Hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 12.
Telephone:
Headmistress:
Mrs. E. M. Caldwell, N.F.F.
Chairman:
Alderman J. Gray, J.P.
Special education for severely disabled children with cerebral palsy who live in the Five Northern Counties.
Accommodation: 32 Day pupils.
40 Boarders.

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TRANSPORT PROBLEM WHY
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you with any information

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FRONT COVER

A YOUNG POULTRY FARMER

A picture of ruddy health, David Pye stands proudly in the door
of his deep-litter house, a bucket of newly-laid eggs in his hands.
The cold February winds don't bother him.

David is spastic and the story of his success at rearing chickens can
be read on pages 14 and 15.

FOR YOUR DIARY

MISS SHIRLEY KEENE, the
Society's Lecturer, has the follow-
ing engagements (these bookings are sub-
ject to alteration):

February 5th, 2.45 p.m. The Inner Wheel
Club of Chingford, May's Bakery, Bacon
Road, Chingford, E.4.
8 p.m. Monday Club, Banstead Con-
gregational Church, Banstead, Surrey.
February 7th, 8 p.m. Society of Christian
Endeavour, Tooting Junction Baptist
Church Sunday School, Langley Road,
S.W.19.
February 8th and 9th. Vocational Assess-
ment Course, XIII. Arundel Hotel,
Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.

February 15th, 2 p.m. Ley Hill Women's
Institute, Memorial Hall, Ley Hill,
Chesham, Bucks.
February 19th, 8 p.m. Women's Guild (no
further information).
February 21st, 8 p.m. Young Wives' Group,
Rolenden Village Hall, Rolenden, near
Maidstone, Kent.
February 22nd, 2.30 p.m. Slade Green
Young Mothers and Babies, Slade Green,
Kent.
February 28th, 2.45 p.m. Ebenezer Methodist
Women's Own, Church School Room,
Alexandra Road, Sheerness, Kent.
March 6th, 7.30 p.m. Women's Guild, Taun-
ton (no further information).
March 13th, 7 p.m. Flint Townswomen
Guild, Cilfan Hall, Flint.

March 14th, 7.30 p.m. Gwaenysgor Women's
Institute, Gwaenysgor, Rhyl, Flintshire.
March 15th, 3 p.m. Sutton Coldfield Branch
Women's Gas Federation, Gas Service
Centre, 9 Birmingham Road, Sutton
Coldfield, Warwick.
March 19th, 3 p.m. Parent Craft Group,
Church Road Clinic, Mitcham, Surrey.
March 20th, 3 p.m. West Croydon Con-
gregational Church, Women's Guild,
West Croydon, Surrey.
March 21st, 2.45 p.m. Redditch Women's
Gas Circle, Showrooms, Redditch,
Worcs.
March 29th, 3 p.m. Mother's Club, Hear-
heste Clinic, Hearheste Ave., Barking-
side, Ilford, Essex.

NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY

Registered in accordance with the National Assistance Act, 1948

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BAN THIS WORD!

IN this issue you can read about the Society's pioneer project in Cambridgeshire, the opening of a residential centre for spastic children with severe mental and physical handicap.

One word is missing in all references in this story to the future residents of the Centre. It is the word 'ineducable'. It is a word which will continue to be missing from the pages of this magazine for two reasons:

- (i) it is the Society's official policy not to use the word.
- (ii) it is a silly word.

And why is it a silly word? Because it just does not ring true.

Education is a preparation for life. When a spastic child is trained to dress himself, and feed himself, and toilet himself, and is able to buy sweets at the shop 'round the corner', he has taken the first steps towards social maturity.

Perhaps he cannot read or do sums. He may always find formal education difficult. But he has attained a small measure of independence and has to some extent been prepared for life.

So away with the word 'ineducable'. The Society will not use it. We ask Groups, parents and friends not to use it. Where we lead, others will follow.

'HELPING HAND' WHEEL CHAIR

Takes up little more space than an ordinary chair.

Self-propelled by hand or foot.

Arm and foot rests, etc., retractable for easy entry, foot rest folds back to allow foot propulsion.

Powerful wheel brakes.

Suitable adults or children.

Tubular steel construction stove enamelled with Vynide upholstery.

Table attachment to order.



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CRADLEY HEATH, STAFFS

TAPE LIBRARY

Dear Editor,

In the "Chin-Up" Club we now have a tapes' section and we were wondering if you would be interested in them. We have a tape called "Records I Like". I do this tape myself and it is composed of all types of records from "pop" to classical. The tape is sent round to homes and hospitals and it does seem popular. We are now starting a new tape called "Meet the Stars", which is taped interviews with some of our top stars.

If you think you could use these tapes or if you know of some hospitals or homes, etc., that would be interested, I will write and arrange it. We should like to make this tape idea popular; so far it has gone down very well. Anyone who is interested, please write direct to me.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN PERKINS,
6 Maydeb Court,
416A Whalebone Lane South,
Chadwell Heath,
Romford, Essex.

READERS' WRITE

Dear Editor,

With very great pleasure I send you my subscription fee. Your magazine grows better with the years and I wish you every success in the future.

Yours sincerely,
(Mrs.) W. A. POMEROY,
Munster & Leinster Bank House,
Youghal, Co. Cork.

Dear Editor,

We look forward to and enjoy each copy of the SPASTICS NEWS and feel we are given new hope from some of the articles.

Our son is progressing since he went to the Wilfred Pickles' School; the entire staff are so helpful and nothing is too much trouble for them. A wonderfully happy atmosphere is felt there.

Yours sincerely,
A. MACKENZIE,
Buckingham.

Dear Editor,

I have taken SPASTICS NEWS since it was a small newspaper and I would not miss it for anything.

Yours truly,
(Mrs.) C. CAWS,
Devizes, Wilts.

A SILVER TRAY

Dear Editor,

A magnificent silver tray has been presented to the National Spastics Society by the Birmingham area committee of

the National Association of British Manufacturers. The chairman, Mr. Richardson, presented the antique silver tray to me with the hope that our Society would either use it at one of our residential centres or sell it to increase funds.

Needless to say we are delighted at Birmingham's generosity. We may dispose of the tray to raise money, but it is so splendid that the Society is tempted to keep it.

Yours sincerely,
(Col.) J. C. JEFFERSON,
Birmingham Sheltered
Workshop Organiser.

SOUTH EAST LONDON

Dear Editor,

Charlton House Community Centre was the scene of great merriment and jollification when the South East London group held their Christmas dance and social.



There were well over one hundred friends and members, all of whom had a wonderful evening joining in the fun. The Mayor and Mayoress of Greenwich and the M.P. were present for a short time during the evening.

We would like to thank the Community Centre very much indeed for the use of their beautiful hall for all of our functions.

Yours sincerely,
(Mrs.) DOREEN
TAYLOR,
Forest Hill,
London, S.E.23.

A PRAYER

Dear Editor,

I came across this little prayer while reading Vera Dean's Book "Three Steps Forward" and I felt

it was so appropriate to anyone with a disability.

May the Lord give me the strength to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed.

May He give me the courage to change the things that can and should be changed.

And may He grant me the wisdom to distinguish one from the other.

Yours sincerely,
(Miss) CORA EMMERSON,
Fulwell, Sunderland.

B.B.C. BROADCAST

On February 20, I am making a broadcast in the B.B.C.'s "Silver Lining" programme in the Home Service at 4.45 p.m. Although I shall be speaking about my own handicap in the light of my own life, I feel many of the experiences are common to many spastics.

RICHARD M. CREED,
Leigh-on-Sea.

(CORRECTION — Not Jerseys Pool)

The pool of which the model described by Mr. Filleul of Jersey was illustrated in last month's "Mailbag" is not for Jersey. This was the pool to be constructed at Ingfield Manor School for which Jersey had donated the money.—Ed.

Yours ...
for a better letter

Harley Bond

a high quality
notepaper

PADS FROM 10d
ENVELOPES FROM 6d

SCHOOL FOR THE UNSCHOLARLY

Pioneer Project for Young Spastics

WE can now give you more details of the "School for the Unscholarly" in Cambridgeshire—a preliminary announcement appeared in the annual report—which will mark a completely new development in the work of the National Spastics Society.

Opening at Meldreth, which is about eight miles from Cambridge, is a residential centre for spastic children with severe mental and physical handicap; children who will probably never lead independent lives. Much of the initial work of this centre, which has been planned by a special advisory committee, will be of an experimental nature.

The need for such a place is well established. A family of which one member is badly handicapped both physically and mentally is itself disabled. There is tension in the home; the mother suffers from emotional and physical strain; in many cases the child fails to make progress because the parents do not know the best method of treatment or because the mother, occupied with other members of the family, cannot devote the time necessary to training the child.

If a child is very badly handicapped the family may find it impossible to cope and the child may be sent to an institution. But this is not always the ideal solution.

Eye on the Future

With all these factors in mind, the Society have set out to establish a centre which will provide social and physical treatment for these children which may make it possible for them to be more easily cared for at a later date, particularly if there is a Day Centre near the home.

Most of the children admitted, in the seven to 15 age group, will be totally dependent upon others when they enter the centre. But skilled staff, at both consultant and professional level, will attempt to change this. There will be some formal education, but the emphasis will be placed upon specialised and individual assessment and care of each child.

Classes will be less than ten in number and some classrooms will be wired for use by the partially deaf.

One aim will be to teach the children to perform such basic tasks as dressing and feeding themselves, to encourage them to lead fuller lives and to reduce the burden placed on those who subsequently will look after them.

Meldreth Manor, the site chosen for the Society's centre, occupies nine acres of land near a city where the provision for treatment and education of children with cerebral palsy by the city health and education authorities is of a high standard.

Four Houses

The existing buildings will be altered and new buildings when completed will accommodate 120 children. They will be divided into four houses, where they will eat and sleep and

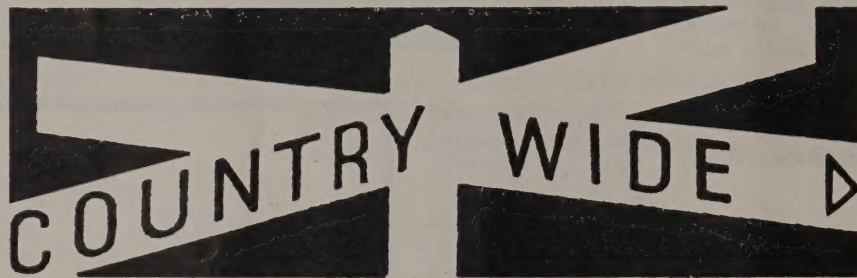
spend their leisure time. Each house will be under the supervision of a house-master or house-mistress, with a Principal over all four houses.

Senior staff and married staff will live in separate houses and a hostel will provide for a further 31. So far as possible, the staff will eat with the children, and by this and other means every effort will be made to create happy conditions conducive to improvement, which is the chief aim of the centre.

New Publication

A new publication entitled *Cerebral Palsy in Childhood and Adolescence. A Medical, Psychological and Social Study*, edited by J. L. Henderson, M.D., F.R.C.P.Ed., has been brought out by E. and S. Livingstone Ltd.

In his review in the *British Medical Journal* Prof. Alan Moncrieff writes: "Professor J. L. Henderson has edited an excellent survey by a team of eleven contributors on *Cerebral Palsy in Childhood and Adolescence*. The sub-title, *A Medical, Psychological and Social Study* shows that the contents are comprehensive. The work owes its origin and support to the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics.





These happy, smiling youngsters have due cause to look pleased with themselves. They are pupils at Craig-y-Parc who were confirmed by the Bishop of Llandaff at a service arranged at the local branch of the Church in Wales, St. Catwgs.

Confirmation classes to prepare them for this step have been held weekly at the school by the Vicar, the Reverend Gruffydd Jones.

"The six parts of the report deal with general considerations of the survey, the medical and surgical aspects of cerebral palsy, associated disabilities (with an excellent chapter on ophthalmological aspects), psychological and social aspects, aetiology, and a concluding section by the editor on conclusions and recommendations. Comparison of the survey results with those of other areas, at home and abroad, is interestingly made with discussion of reasons for differences (often due to terminology).

"The recommendations should be carefully studied by any group planning to start or improve a service for spastic children."

After the Ball . . .

. . . is over, there will be an addition to the funds of the Stockport, East Cheshire and High Peak Spastics Society funds this month. For on February 16, at Stockport Town Hall, the local branch of the National Union of Journalists, in conjunction with the Stockport Society, will present a Press Ball which is expected to be one of the most ambitious events the town has ever seen. Proceeds will be in aid of the N.U.J. Widows and Orphans Fund and the Spastics Society. Three

bands will keep the programme swinging—a jazz band is travelling from London for the occasion—and there will be cabaret attractions and personal appearances of popular stars.

(Edited from the Stockport Advertiser)

Pen Pals Wanted

A notice in the Spastics' Quarterly should interest those who like writing letters. It reads: "Spastics aged 12-19 at the Pretoria Cerebral Palsy School would like to correspond with spastics in special schools and centres in the United Kingdom. Anyone interested should write to The Speech Therapist, Miss J. Taylor, Pretoria Cerebral Palsy School, Dr. Savage Road, Pretoria, Republic of South Africa."

Dancing and Choral Classes

Another item in the Spastics' Quarterly discloses that Middlesex County Welfare Authority have arranged a number of dancing and choral classes open to men and women suffering from any form of handicap. Full details can be obtained from the County Council of Middlesex Welfare Department, 1 Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Dartmouth Street, London, S.W.1.

They Never Forget

Despite the many claims made upon their purses at Christmas, employees of Tate and Lyle, Ltd., never forget the National Spastics Society. Again at Christmas a large box arrived at 12 Park Crescent containing a wonderful selection of beautifully dressed dolls, games galore, toy cars and other delights to gladden the heart of any child. These kind people have been sending toys to us for many years.

Mr. Pastry Opens Reading Fair

One of the best fairs Reading has seen for a long time was held at Olympia in December. It was the Spastics Fair organised by the Reading and Berkshire Spastics Welfare Society, and it attracted over 1,000 people.

A record sum—£850—was raised, half of which will go to

the society to enable them to open a spastics' centre in the town, and the other half will go to "Mr. Pastry" (Richard Hearne) to swell his swimming pool fund.

When a spastics' centre is opened in a town, the money which "Mr. Pastry" collects from various charitable events goes to build a swimming pool, which is constantly heated at 98 degrees F. Nineteen swimming pools have already been established at spastics' centres throughout the country.

During the morning "Mr. Pastry" made a tour through the main streets in a decorated vintage car, lent by Reading Rotary Club. A street collection organised by University students at this time raised more than £50—double last year's total.

At the opening of the fair in the afternoon, "Mr. Pastry" praised the work of Mrs. J. Kirk, who organised the fair, and has done magnificent work helping children in Reading.

TRICYCLES

FOR

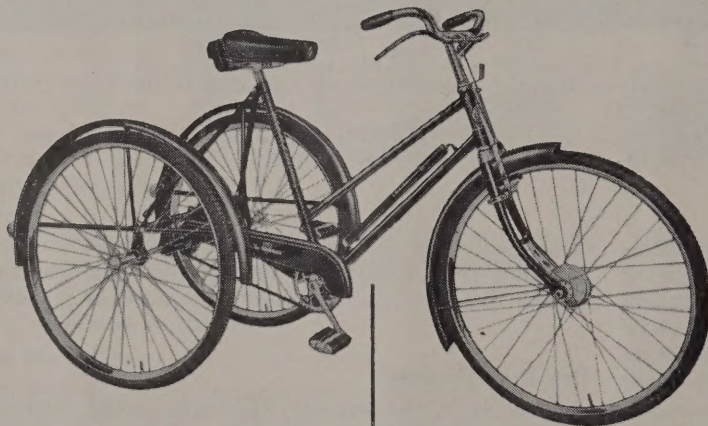
SPASTICS



ADULT MODEL



JUVENILE MODEL



We have pleasure in announcing that we are manufacturing the range of Pedal Tricycles for spastics previously produced by Norman Cycles Ltd. of Ashford. Special models, noted for their reliability, they can be provided with backrests, 3-speed gear and other accessories beneficial to the users.

Full details and prices on application to the address below:

GEORGE FITT MOTORS LIMITED

WHITSTABLE · KENT

Festival of 2,500 Cakes

Large crowds flocked to the Addlestone Co-operative Hall recently for the "festival of a thousand cakes". Every imaginable type of cake was to be found there from 16 lb. creations by professionals down to the humble jam tarts made by a child of six. The "festival of a thousand cakes" had become one of about 2,500!

The object was to help raise a further £10,000 to complete the building and equipping of the White Lodge Centre for Spastics at present under construction at Chertsey. The cost will be over £40,000.

It will have proper rooms for treatment, school work and play and "Mr. Pastry" donated a therapeutic pool. A sheltered workshop for older spastics is already planned for the same site. The centre will replace the existing rented premises at Worplesdon, and will serve spastics in a large area in North and West Surrey and North Hampshire.

In addition to the festival of cakes, there was another interesting ceremony in the unveiling of bricks. Each Council representative unveiled a stone on behalf of the area he represented and later the stones will be incorporated in the building.

It was believed to be Britain's greatest cake festival. Over 50 helpers drawn from S.W. Surrey, N.W. Surrey, Hants and West Surrey, groups of the Spastics Society, had volunteered to be cake sellers, car park officials, doormen, etc.

Pride of place among the cakes was that from Mr. Fred Jacobs, of Lyons, whose cakes have graced the tables of the Royal Family. Another interesting item was a scale reproduction in sugar icing of the White Lodge Centre itself presented by Brooklands Technical College.

The festival was officially opened by "Mr. Pastry" who previously had toured the area sitting on a model of a cake made of wood and paper by students of Brooklands Technical College.

OVER £1,000 JEWELLERY SOLD

Homeworkers Beat Their Target

SPASTIC homeworkers have made and sold over £1,000 worth of jewellery during the last three months. In doing so they have more than achieved the target that was in the mind of the Employment Department when the scheme was launched.

What is the story behind this news and what has it meant to the homeworker? To find out we asked Mr. William Hargreaves, the Industrial Liaison Officer, who is in charge of the homework schemes.

"Quite simply," he said, "it is the result of excellent team work on the part of everyone connected with the scheme. So far as we in the Employment Department were concerned we had a challenge. Many spastics were depending upon us to keep them occupied but more than occupation was our aim. We wanted them to earn and thereby feel independent.

"The Christmas card scheme had been running successfully for some years and the home printers were augmenting their National Assistance allowance very nicely. A number of other workers were sending in basket work, leather work, stools and many other articles for sale. There were, however, many others without occupation. We were therefore continually looking around for a suitable article which could be made at home and which was pleasant to have around the house.

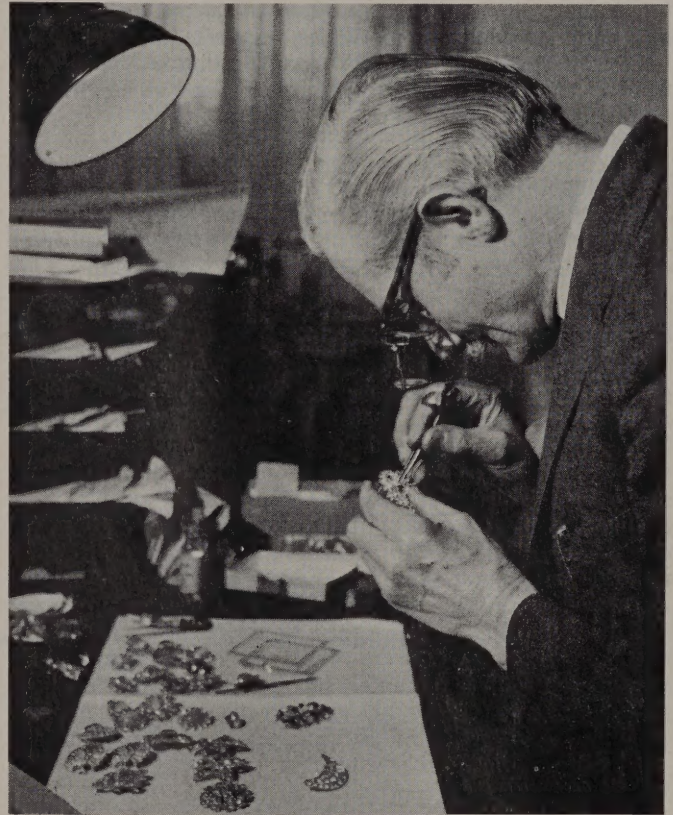
Costume jewellery seemed to be the answer, particularly as spastics who could use only one hand were able to manage the work. It was decided to try and see what a little sales promotion would do. The Eastern Region was asked to try and sell jewellery as a pilot scheme and advice was sought from Tickopres Ltd. as to the best kind of packing.

"Eastern Region agreed to help us and Tickopres suggested delightful bubble packs. For the first time the groups were asked to perform a service for the homebound in selling goods at no profit to themselves. A preliminary stock of £200 worth of jewellery was built up at the Regional Office. It was hoped that the Eastern Region would be able to dispose of this amount and that we would be able to keep some dozen spastics busy. Each of the 18 groups involved bought a small display panel for six guineas and searched for customers.

Orders Pour In

"Before we at Headquarters could draw breath we were inundated. Quickly more homeworkers were brought into the scheme and 'Operation Jewellery' was on. To give some idea of the scale of the operation, we started with four homeworkers and by the middle of December, 44 were working extremely hard fulfilling the avalanche of orders that had descended upon us. The very small staff at Headquarters was almost overwhelmed and offers of voluntary help were quickly accepted. Staff members even took jewellery home to pack. Miss Merle Davies, herself a spastic, who writes all the letters to the homeworkers, reported that the letters were getting shorter and shorter due to the number she had to write. Mr. Sheath, another spastic worker, who inspects and repairs the jewellery, began to use stronger and stronger magnifying glasses to avoid eye strain. Miss Burnett had almost to be forced to leave her desk late at night. In addition the normal work was maintained with the other homeworkers. We are most grateful to Mrs. Knight, wife of the Eastern Regional Officer, who became a full-time voluntary worker in order to cope with the extra work involved at the Regional Office.

SPASTIC NEWS then published our story and our jewellery was used as a front cover picture. As a result over 100 orders were received, average value £1 per order. A month before Christmas it was decided to accept no further orders to avoid disappointing the customers. As a result only one brooch was not delivered to Eastern Region—this was because it was of a design which was not being produced at that time.



... Mr. Sheath began to use stronger and stronger magnifying glasses

Scheme Extended

The Employment Committee has now decided to set up a homework section within the Employment Department and plans are now in hand to keep very many spastics busy in their own homes as continuously as possible during 1962. The home printers will shortly commence production of next year's Christmas cards and the jewellery workers, basket makers, leather workers, and others will soon be receiving their first orders.

The Homework Section hopes to at least quadruple the work during the next 12 months and hopes that very many more spastics will, as a result, reap the benefit of useful occupation. If all groups will follow the splendid example set by the Eastern Region then homeworkers will have no need to worry about whether their goods are being sold or not. All groups are asked to remember the homeworkers goods when arranging exhibitions, sales of work and bazaars.

Cheltenham:

The N.S.S. have given a £700 grant to help cover the cost of extending St. Vincent's Remedial Centre in Central Cross Avenue, Pittville. The money will be used to supplement the £2,000 already raised by the Cheltenham Spastics Aid Association. The new extension will mean that 15 children will be able to receive treatment at the centre.

(Edited from Gloucestershire Echo)

Ilford:

Remember the request for gifts for a spring bazaar from Mrs. Cecily McCaul, secretary of the Ilford and Romford & District Spastics Association? Now the bazaar looks like becoming international. Already a gift of handicrafts has been sent from nine-year-old spastic children in Prague. Our own groups have shown their enthusiasm and there is china from the Potteries, dolls from Wales, kippers from Grimsby, liquorice from Pontefract, rock from Cleethorpes, handicrafts from Devon, and cream from Jersey. Many other gifts are promised.

(Edited from Ilford Pictorial)

Northampton:

Chairman of the Northampton and County Spastics Society, Mr. E. F. Tomkins, stated that extensions to the Northampton Spastics' Home, costing £8,000, would soon begin.

(Edited from Northamptonshire Evening Telegraph)

Exeter:

Creation in Exeter of a centre for young spastics in the district was recently described to Cullompton Rotary Club. Mr. Charles Vranck, the chairman of the Exeter and District Spastics Society, said that their society had only been formed in June, 1961. Their object was to create a centre for young spastics from birth to about six years. Their aims were to facilitate daily specialist treatment, special education for children, to provide an occupational therapy centre and workshops for adult spastics. Spastics were all documented, so that when the first stage of the centre was set up it was hoped by the end of 1962 they would be given immediate attention. The cost of the whole project is estimated at £25,000-£30,000 and initial running costs will be about £15,000 p.a. So far £14,000 has been collected in six months. Pending the formation of the centre, the society is running a "sitting-in" service to relieve parents

(Edited from Express and Echo, Devon)

Bromley:

West Kent Spastics Society's dream of the past three years shows sign of materialisation thanks to the response from residents of Bromley and the surrounding areas. Work will soon start on the new workshop incorporated in a centre of modern design at Park Road, Bromley. When built at a cost of £5,000 it will provide facilities for employment for more than 20 people. Operating costs will involve an annual £3,300, but part of the capital cost of the scheme will be met by the N.S.S. with a grant of £2,500.

(Edited from Bromley and Kentish Times)

Roxburghshire:

The first major step towards a centre where Border spastics can receive daily treatment was taken recently when the Countess of Ellesmere, hon. president of the Border Spastic Association, received a cheque for £1,000. The money was the result of a series of whist drives held in 62 towns and villages throughout the Borders. The man behind their organisation is Mr. A. Bonar of Earlston.

(Edited from Border Counties Chronicle and Mail)

St. Leonards:

A monster pile of pennies worth £121 11s. 4d. were demolished by Bob and Alf Pearson at the Tivoli Tavern, St. Leonards. The two stars were appearing in the pantomime at the White Rock Pavilion, Hastings.

(Edited from Evening Argus, Brighton)

Leatherhead:

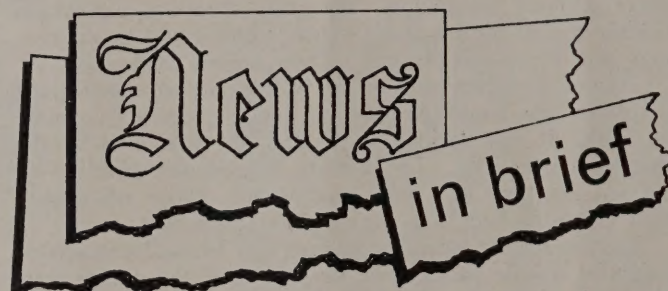
Between 400 and 500 toys were contributed by employees in the works and offices of Goblin Ltd., Leatherhead, and distributed to children of the Central Surrey Group and the North Surrey Group of the N.S.S. The idea began when the workers wished to say thank you for the attention received at their own surgery and sick bay.

(Edited from Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser)

Birmingham:

If anyone has any cast-off clothing or oddments of wool, a 65-year-old grandmother in Birmingham would love to have them. Mrs. Williams of 173 Heath Road, King's Norton, knits soft toys for handicapped children and makes children's clothes. All are free gifts. "I always unpick the clothes, wash the material before cutting out and matching up." So don't give that old skirt to the rag-man, there may be another life for it yet.

(Edited from Weekly News, Manchester)



Doncaster:

With the support of the local council Mrs. K. M. Cheetham, mother of a spastic daughter, is to organise the first Doncaster area spastics welfare group. Already she has taken the first step by forming a group in her own village. Mrs. Cheetham lives at The Crescent, Woodlands, near Doncaster.

(Edited from Yorkshire Post)

London:

Wondering what to do with those old Christmas cards? The Hallmark Twelfth Night Appeal, 82 Baker Street, London, W.1, would be glad to have them. Mr. Bill Kalhorn, a London businessman, started the Twelfth Night Appeal two years ago and has found it hard ever since to keep up with the flow of old cards. He sends them to charitable institutions, schools, hospitals and aged and sick people in more than a dozen countries in Europe and the Commonwealth.

(Edited from Staffordshire Weekly Sentinel)

Darlington:

A plan for conversion of a house in Coast Road into a holiday home, which had been previously rejected by the committee, was approved by Redcar Town Improvement and Water Committee recently after a letter from the applicants, Darlington and District Spastics Society. A caretaker will be needed and only one family with one spastic child will be in residence at one time. No structural changes in the house will be necessary.

(Edited from Evening Gazette, Middlesbrough)

Montgomeryshire:

There was a good attendance at a recent meeting at Community House, Newtown, at which Montgomeryshire Spastics Society was formed. A committee representing Machynlleth, Llangurig, Llanidloes, Newtown, Welshpool and Bwlchycibau, was appointed and members are urgently required from all parts of the county to enable work to be successful. Anyone willing to serve should contact the secretary.

(Edited from Montgomery County Times)

Windsor:

Two Windsor organisations helping spastics amalgamated recently at the Guildhall into a society under the presidency of Alderman Miss Gladys Hanbury Williams. They are the Windsor Friends of Ponds (the hospital for spastics at Seer Green, Bucks) and the Windsor and District Spastic Society. The new organisation is called the Friends of Ponds and Windsor Spastic Society. It promised to give £1,000 a year to hospitals and means to spend the rest of its income in the interests of spastic people in the area. One aim is to finance a Windsor training centre where spastics could learn to earn a living. The new chairman is Windsor Councillor Mr. Ian Keeler.

(Edited from Windsor Express)

Gloucester:

A special riding event for spastic children may be included in next year's annual Painswick Show. The suggestion was put forward at their annual meeting and it was agreed that the proposal be looked into by the Schedule Committee.

(Edited from the Citizen, Gloucester)

Glasgow:

You're ten years old and you want money to give to the local hospital association. That's the problem that faced a little girl from Falkirk. Then she remembered her 45 story books, and immediately hit on the idea of starting a library with them among her young friends. "I charge 1d. a week for each book," she says and now has handed over the first £1 of the proceeds. Her friend, a doctor's daughter, has also started a "lending library" and the money is to go to the spastic children's fund.

(Edited from Evening Citizen, Glasgow)

Plymouth:

Little is known in this country of the valuable contribution made to spastic children by naval personnel returning home after a tour service. Personnel of H.M.S. *St. Brides Bay*, who arrived home recently, included many men from Devon. Their collection amounted to £30 and, changed into British currency at Singapore, was donated to the N.S.S.

(Edited from Western Morning News)

Tees-side:

The Tees-side Parents and Friends of Spastics who are seeking an occupation and workshop centre in Middlesbrough for adults are having discussions with the handicapped persons sub-committee of the Middlesbrough Corporation Welfare Service Committee. The latter committee intend starting on building an old people's hostel at Pallister Park in May at a

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cost of £7,000. There are about 62 adult spastics in the area, and parents and friends are prepared, if necessary, to provide a centre and to consider allowing other disabled persons to use it. The committee decided to welcome the proposals and to continue further discussions.

(Edited from Evening Gazette, Middlesbrough)

THERE ARE NO

CRISPS

TO EQUAL

SMITH'S

FOR QUALITY AND FLAVOUR

STARS SHINE IN THE NORTH

FOR SPASTICS

THEIR names are household words. Their life stories are followed with close attention. They bring pleasure to millions of people every week. They are, of course, the stars of the Granada TV programme, "Coronation Street."

To these people—Ena Sharples, Elsie Tanner, Concepta Riley, Harry Hewitt, Frank Barlow, Jack Walker, and the many others—the National Spastics Society owes a great deal. For week after week over the past year they have given of their spare time most willingly to visit hotels and inns to push over piles of pennies collected for spastics.

Who are they, these actors and actresses, who have been spotlighted to fame through the medium of television, who lead extremely busy lives, but who still make time to help others?

The Gossip

Probably the best known character in "Coronation Street" is Ena Sharples, the local gossip and scandalmonger, who is played to perfection by Violet Carson. In real life Violet Carson is nothing like her screen character.

Born in a Coronation-type street in Manchester, in Ancoats, where her father was the manager of a local mill, Violet blossomed out as a pianist and by the age of 13 was playing the piano in the pit orchestra of a Manchester cinema, in the days of silent films. From there it was a short step to radio work. She was "Auntie Vi" of B.B.C. radio Children's Hour, and "Violet at the piano" on Wilfred Pickles' "Have a Go" programme.

Violet Carson now lives in Blackpool with her widowed sister and mother. When she finds the time, she loves gardening.

Patricia Phoenix, the "Elsie Tanner" of the series, was born in County Galway and moved to Manchester with her parents when she was a small child. They, too, lived in a Coronation-type street in Fallowfield, Manchester, where, at school, one of Pat's best friends was Betty Alberge who now plays Florrie Lindley in "Coronation Street". They appeared in school plays together.

Pat has worked with most Northern repertory theatre companies and has toured all over Britain. She has made four films and was in a Granada play five years ago. Her ambition is to star in a Tennessee Williams' play in the West End of London. Hobbies include decorating, swimming, riding.



Elsie Tanner, alias Pat Phoenix

well known in rep. in Lancashire where he has spent most of his life. When not behind the bar in "Coronation Street", Arthur paints in oil and water colours and writes plays—a Lancashire comedy of which has been successful in rep. both in the north and south.

Doris Speed, who plays Annie Walker, the wife of the licensee, is also a "stage" child. She was born in Manchester where her parents were in a musical comedy touring show and she first went on the boards as a five-year-old. "As I grew up, I had to attend a new school in a new town every week of my school life," says Doris. "Bad for my education . . . but good for my self-confidence." Of her hobby she says she is "an omniverous reader of everything connected with the stage".

"Stage" Children

Arthur Leslie, alias Jack Walker, the licensee of the *Rover's Return*, was born in Newark, Notts, but now lives near Coronation Street, Blackpool. He was actually born into show business while his parents were on tour. He is



Margot Bryant

Chorus girl, television actress, film star—that's the background to Margot Bryant, who plays Minnie Caldwell in the "Street". Born in Hull, the daughter of a doctor, Margot always wanted to be an actress—like her elder sister. Her first job was in the chorus line of 'Alladin' at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, and then she toured in chorus and musical comedy, stepping into

London's West End with Fred and Adele Astaire in "Stop Flirting" at the Strand Theatre. She has played in numerous North-country plays and serials on television and she was in the films "The Trials of Oscar Wilde", "In the Nick", "The Night we Sprung a Leak", and "Beat Girl". She lists her hobbies as reading, sewing—and talking to cats!

William Roache, who takes the part of Kenneth Barlow, once lived with Arabs. Educated in North Wales he started to study medicine and took his first M.B. Then he decided on an Army life and took a regular commission. This led him to Arabia where he worked with Bedouin tribesmen and lived as one of them. But the acting fever was in him, so he resigned his commission and managed to get a small part in a film with Michael Redgrave. From there he went into repertory companies, played in more films and, finally, television. Fencing, woodwork, squash, chess and making films "both sides of the camera" are his hobbies.

Just Made It

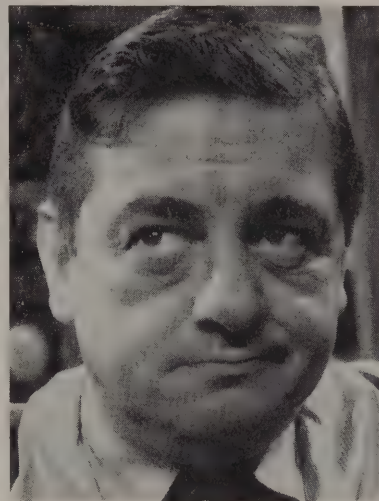
Frank Pemberton, the Frank Barlow of "Coronation Street", tells a wonderful story of the early days of TV. He was

Violet Carson as Ena Sharples in typical pose as she chats to Betty Alberge (Florrie Lindley).



appearing in a play and after an exit he thought his part was finished. So he changed and started for home. On the way he passed a TV dealer's shop where a set was working in the window. He stopped to look . . . and it was the play he had just left. Suddenly he remembered he had another entrance to make, dashed back to the studio, changed and made his entrance just in time!

Frank, who was born in Old Trafford, Manchester, and later moved to Birmingham, started his working life apprenticed to engineering before joining his father's business. But show business called. First he formed his own rep. company, then he moved to over 100 parts in television and dozens of parts in films. Then came "Coronation Street". Frank's hobbies are boating and photography.



Frank Pemberton

Says Philip Lowrie, who plays the lay-about son of Elsie Tanner, in the TV series, "I was born in Ashton-under-Lyne, near Manchester, in a street that might well have been called Coronation Street. He went to RADA at 17, did two years National Service, and then returned to RADA. He finished his course in 1958 and had short spells in rep. and some B.B.C. work. Then he took over the part of Willie Bosworth in "Farewell, Farewell Eugene", which he played for seven months with Margaret Rutherford and Peggy Mount.

These then are some of the personalities who bring laughter and drama to your television screens every week. There are many more to whom we are indebted.

The smiling faces behind the bar belong to Arthur Leslie and Doris Speed (Jack and Annie Walker).



This month we start a new series of true-life stories of spastic men and women who have risen above the limitations of their handicap. We offer this series as a tribute to the courage and enterprise of these young men and women and as an inspiration to the many others who are seeking a fuller life.

A POULTRY FARMER IN KENT

YOU can walk into a city shop, buy eggs stamped with the Egg Marketing Board's "little lion", and be sure that they are good. You can also walk into a poultry farm in the village of Hawkhurst, Kent, buy eggs whose only decorations are the straw and feathers from the laying boxes, and still be sure they are good: for this is the farm of 19-year-old David Pye, a young spastic with a bright future who always aims to give the best.

David has found poultry farming an ideal occupation and means of livelihood to suit his temperament and abilities. Despite his youth and his handicap he is already in a better position than many of his contemporaries. Caring for 400 chickens brings David the security and sense of belonging to a community that most people need.

His parents offered him the opportunity. David grasped it eagerly—not just for a few months only to discard the idea like a worn-out novelty, but with determination and persistence.

A Sickly Baby

David was a tiny, delicate baby, weighing only 5 lbs. at birth. At 10 months he was still only 11 lbs. Feeding was difficult and his movements strange. The local district nurse—the family were living in Sussex at the time—helped Mrs. Pye with the child until at the age of two he was walking.

In order to be within easy reach of the London hospitals, the family moved to Highgate when David was four. Then from a doctor they learned that David was a spastic boy.

At the age of six he still could not talk and speech therapy was suggested by the Middlesex County Council. For six years he attended University College Hospital for speech therapy and then it was decided he should see a psychiatrist. According to Mrs. Pye it took this specialist only eight minutes to reach a decision on her son. "Your child is not normal," he diagnosed. He should be in a mental home. He will never be able to think for

himself or remember anything from one day to another."

Disheartened as she was by the diagnosis, Mrs. Pye decided it was vital to have a second opinion in view of the earlier good reports and her own knowledge of her son. A neurologist friend of the family, who specialised at Middlesex Hospital, went to the Pye's home for one-and-a-half hours to give David tests in the comfort and security of familiar surroundings. His verdict was that David was not mentally deficient but mentally retarded. The left side of the brain was damaged. "There is no reason why David should not be a useful member of society," he said.

Schooling

His parents determined to give David every opportunity. At first he attended a pre-prep. school with his younger brother, Anthony, where he received every possible encouragement. But it was found that working together disrupted Anthony's concentration and the two had to be separated.

David went to a boarding school in Kent when he was 12, but this proved quite inadequate and he returned home for private tuition. Loneliness set in, so back he went to boarding school. This time Moorhouse in Oxted, a school for children with speech defects.

Eventually Burgess Hill School in Hampstead, which believes in progressive education, had David as a pupil for two years. This school suited David's needs. For Mr. Pye, an executive in the coal industry, visiting his two sons at their different schools was a revelation. "To see Anthony at Eastbourne College," he laughed, "with the rigorous discipline of a public school, the serious intellectual masters greeting the parents soberly with propriety was quite another story from the free and easy atmosphere of Burgess Hill and chatting to the bearded Head as he casually stretched out on his divan."

The Poultry Farm

School could not continue for ever;

some occupation had to be found. In London there was no outlet for David. What could he do? One summer the family had stayed with friends who ran a poultry farm in Sussex and David had been absorbed and happy from morning to night helping their hosts. That might be the answer.

So the move to Buckhurst was made—a spacious house in Kent with two acres of ground.

The left side of the garden has been appropriated for David's ventures. An area near the house, which is hedged off, will have soft fruit plants. The remainder of the broad strip already holds two deep-litter chicken houses. One of wood construction was bought second-hand and houses at present the older birds who are still laying eggs. The other house is newer, made of concrete, well built and paid for by a £500 grant from the N.S.S. It shelters 400 pullets who were bought as day-old chicks. Only three were lost in the rearing—an extraordinary achievement by any standards, as it is quite normal to have a 10 per cent breeding loss. Now at 12 weeks, they are calm and contented, quietly moving about among the wood chips on the floor or perching on the droppings' pit made by David with his fathers' help. Water is provided in two troughs specially designed to maintain a constant level, and feeding is from the numerable polythene automatic feeding bins. Many bins are necessary because of the shy feeding habits of some birds and the greedy habits of others.

Soon these pullets will start laying eggs to be sold to the local people who have become customers. At present, the demand is met with the eggs laid by the older birds.

Up at 7.30 in the morning, David immediately goes to his chickens, collecting any eggs and filling the feeding bins. Mrs. Pye cleans and grades the eggs and assists with deliveries. After breakfast, there are the fires to be laid and lit, wood to be chopped, house plants to be tended.



Filling the feeding bins in the new poultry house.

The vegetable garden has to be prepared—a rotavator comes in very handy—and the lawn is trimmed with the motorised mower. He sows seeds and once a week cleans and disinfects the laying boxes, prepares the compost and does any other odd job.

David has infinite patience and will talk gently to his birds whenever he enters their house. The present pullets are Rhode Islands X White Leghorns from Sykes of Warminster. They start laying at 22 weeks, then go on continuously for a year. Eventually they are sold alive at 5s. 6d. each to poultry wholesalers and used for food.

How it began

Nearly 2½ years ago in September 1959, 36 12-week-old pullets were bought at a cost of 12s. each. During the day the chickens ran on free range; at night they were housed in two tiny huts. At Easter, 180 day-old chicks were purchased and put in the wooden shed. Only two birds were lost.

Early in 1961 Mr. and Mrs. Pye decided to approach the N.S.S. for a grant. Had they not done so, continuous production would have been halted and the vital first two stages completely wasted. Miss Richards of the Employment Department visited the Pye's, reviewed the

situation and after consideration by the committee, permission was granted. The £500 was broken up as follows: house—£110, erection—£35, concrete foundation—£38; 400 chicks at 3s. 6d. each plus food to bring to point of lay, 10s. 6d. The balance being spent on timber for droppings pit, concrete path, connection to electricity and water supplies (already brought down to the garden for the first house) and various equipment.

If David keeps up his excellent results with egg production, he should do very well. Production was maintained at above 70 per cent for many months, which is way above average.

Future Plans

David feels he could manage another house and 800 chicks and eventually 1,000. A total of three houses is needed, so that there are always two houses with birds in lay to ensure continuous production, the third house utilised for rearing. Over a period of 18 months an average profit of about 15s. or more on each bird can be expected. With his other ventures, in fruit and vegetables, he could certainly become self-supporting.

A Grand Mother

But if David is the hero of the story, then his mother is the heroine. It is through the efforts of her and her husband that much of David's many interests were fostered.

Mrs. Pye has active interests in the district. For example, once a week she assists with the meals-on-wheels service.

But her main object is to help her handicapped son. During the holidays she takes in public school boys whose

(Continued on p. 22)

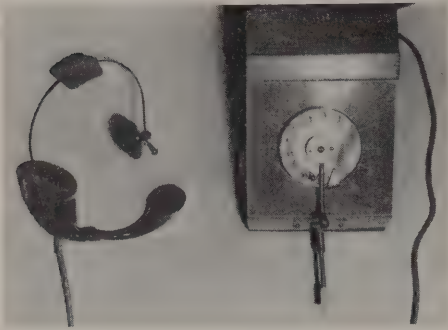
Cycling on the lawn at Buckhurst with father, mother and brother.



Billiards with brother Anthony, Salim Laher from S. Africa and Ala Toukam from Jordan.



The Page that Keeps You Up-to-Date



TELEPHONE FOR DISABLED SUBSCRIBERS

IT is wise to know that the G.P.O. can be extremely helpful if people will only take the trouble to approach them with a reasonable request.

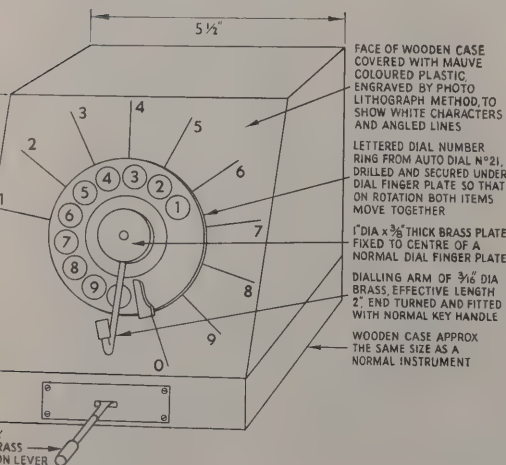
A sufferer from muscular dystrophy, Mr. Vincent C. Watson, did just this and he has sent us the results in the hope that others may benefit.

His three main difficulties in using a normal telephone were lifting the receiver, tiring easily when holding it for any length of time, and dialling the numbers.

Tests to overcome these points were carried out by the Post Office staff and a special telephone designed.

A new lightweight headset proved entirely satisfactory and can be worn for several hours at a time.

For use with the headset, a wooden case was constructed of approximately the same size as a normal instrument but without the H.M.T. and cradle hook springs.



Operation of a brass key in front of the wooden case does away with lifting the H.M.T. to answer or originate calls and transfers the open line to the headset.

To dial, a piece of brass fixed to the centre of a normal dial fingerplate has inserted a 2 in. brass rod with the free end turned at 90 degrees and threaded to take a normal key handle. A lettered dial number ring was secured under the fingerplate, so that on rotation both moved simultaneously. A new and deeper type of fingerstop, also of brass, was substituted.

The new dial was mounted into the upper face of the wooden case, the surface of which was covered with plastic, engraved with lines and figures one to zero to denote the position to which the "rotating dialling arm" must be moved to dial a number.

A sheet of lead placed in the base and a piece of sorbo-type sponge rubber fastened to the bottom prevents slipping.

Mr. Watson has used the telephone for several months and found it entirely satisfactory. It was particularly useful when he was alone in the house. Incoming calls are answered merely by operating the brass key. Outgoing calls are made by operating the brass key and dialling the number required, making use of the special dialling arm.

The instrument was designed by Mr. E. R. Trotter assisted by Mr. M. W. Burns and Mr. J. Whittingham, all of the Middlesbrough Post Office Telephone Service. A copy of the circuit is supplied with the special telephone in case servicing is necessary and these may be obtained by application to the Middlesbrough Telephone Manager.



Lotus K-line basin

A SPECIALLY DESIGNED WASH BASIN

THIS basin was designed by Adamsez Ltd. working in conjunction with Architects Co-Partnership, the designers of our new grammar school at Tonbridge. Though perfectly suitable for use by anyone, it was specially conceived for the use of spastic children and it is hoped that the prototype shown here can be tried out at the Thomas Delarue School in order that any necessary modifications can be made before installation in the new buildings, which are due for completion at the end of this year.

The good looking design is on simple lines, dictated by function as well as appearance, and allows easy cleaning. The concave front ensures that a standing child can discard sticks or crutches and lean on the basin without fear of sliding off. The short back incorporates specially firm fixings so that even the heaviest spastic should not prove too much of a strain!

The front of the basin is raised slightly to prevent splashing onto the lap of a child in a wheelchair and the bowl is gently curved in section as well as in plan so that the chair can be pushed well up to the basin without the occupant suffering from bruised knees!

A black rubber ball is used instead of the usual plug which tends to be difficult to fit in and, of course, lever operated taps can be fitted as an alternative to the capstan type shown in the illustration. The soap tray is easily accessible and cleanable and the wide side shelves allow room for sponge bags and the other paraphernalia which usually seems to fall in the water!

NEW SURVEY OF SERVICES TO SPASTICS

WHERE? What? By Whom?—these are questions now being put to local authorities by the N.S.S. in a new survey aimed at establishing just what services for spastics are provided throughout the country.

The results of this new venture will almost certainly be available later in the year and it is intended that the information will be freely available for the guidance of committees.

The past year or two has seen a steady expansion of the services provided both by local authorities and by the Societies. Funds available for this type of development have always been limited and it is clearly of the utmost importance that any step taken by the N.S.S. towards the expansion of some particular service should be the right one. Duplication of

interests and activities must be avoided.

With these thoughts in mind, the Local Projects Department are conducting a mammoth survey to provide the answers.

More Local Services planned

The survey is being carried out in two stages, the first of which is concerned with local authorities from whom so far there has been a most encouraging response. The survey covers not only the existing facilities but also outlines future development.

From information already received it is evident that many authorities are planning new services which are to benefit spastics.

It is evident also that some local authorities provide little or no services for spastics. For some the reason is an

absence of demand. For others it is difficult to find any reason other than a shortage of finance or an unaccountable indifference.

The second stage of the survey is concerned with the services provided by local spastics' societies and separate questionnaires are directed at groups operating a centre and at those who do not provide centre facilities at the present time.

These questionnaires, which, though comprehensive, have been made as brief as possible, are to be issued to all groups during the next few weeks.

Despite the additional work which will inevitably be entailed in the completion of these forms, a successful and accurate survey will depend largely upon the information provided by groups and their committees.

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the
cares of the
day

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EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS AMONGST ADOLESCENTS AND ADULTS WITH HEMIPLEGIA

by Miss Margaret R. Morgan, N.S.S. Employment Officer

FROM the point of view of the physical handicap, the man or woman suffering from hemiplegia should be—and probably is—much easier to place and settle in employment than the one who is suffering from paraplegia, quadriplegia or athetosis.

Many thousands of hemiplegic men and women are undoubtedly employed in a wide variety of jobs and are giving satisfaction to their employers. These jobs have probably been obtained either through their own efforts or through the normal channels, for example, the Youth Employment Officer or Disablement Resettlement Officer. These men and women do not generally need the assistance of the N.S.S. Employment Department, and so it is difficult for us to obtain a complete picture of the numbers who are successfully employed. Those who call upon the services of the Employment Department or who are referred to us from a variety of sources are, of necessity, those with special problems, so that from our point of view the difficulties tend to become exaggerated. There is no doubt, however, that for large numbers of young and older people with cerebral palsy the choosing and finding of suitable work, whether within the wage earning range or at a purely occupational level are very difficult problems.

We have obviously not succeeded with everyone who has been referred to us, but the rate of failure once placed is remarkably low. This is partly due to the fact that we are very cautious in our placing and only submit to employers those candidates whom we feel are likely to make the grade, and partly because the employers whom we have chosen have been particularly helpful and patient in finding just the right job for their particular applicant.

This preparation of the employer is vitally important if the more severely handicapped candidate is to be given a fair trial—and to most employers nearly everyone suffering from cerebral palsy is severely handicapped! So often we have heard of young people who have been dismissed after a few days' or even a few hours' work because the employer has judged on first impressions and given no time for the new employees to settle down and learn to overcome their initial nervousness with its consequent physical

reactions. Often when we have heard of the problem early enough we have been able to persuade the employer to extend the trial period but in a number of cases the spastic has not been referred to us until after he has been dismissed.

The particular problems of the hemiplegic man and woman can therefore be classified under the following general headings. Jobs *can* be found for men and women who are capable of and adjusted to normal employment. In many cases where a severely handicapped person is successfully employed the success is due more to what he is than to what he does.

1. Social Adjustment

(i) Immaturity and an under-developed social consciousness. Industry is prepared to accept and train normal 15- and 16-years-olds, and is used to dealing with all the problems that are common in adolescence, but as many of our school leavers are functioning at the 12- or 13-year-old level they are obviously not ready for employment immediately after leaving school. Problems are bound to arise if these young people are placed without a long period of further education or training.

(ii) A pre-occupation with one's own problems and an unnecessary and demanding dependence on others. This is basically due to immaturity, but it frequently persists into adulthood and is found even among men and women who otherwise are quite responsible and rational in their behaviour. This attitude may be caused by over-protection and excessive attention in childhood by parents, teachers, therapists and others who are responsible for helping the child while at school. The adolescent has to learn the hard way that he is not necessarily as extra special as he was led to believe he was!

(iii) A failure to accept the physical or intellectual handicap. This can result in two widely differing attitudes. In the first the young person has an unrealistic and sometimes completely irrational conception of his own potentialities

and limitations—though this is even more common with athetoids. At the other extreme there are the young people who are so conscious of their handicap that they suffer from an excessive sensitivity to the difference between themselves and their contemporaries. As a result they are completely withdrawn and lacking in self confidence. These young people are often only very slightly handicapped and so tend to mix with the unhandicapped, which makes them even more conscious of their deficiencies.

(iv) A failure to reach the standard set by parents, brothers and sisters or even teachers. This results at best in a sense of insecurity and frustration, and at worst in severe and sometimes violent behavioural problems. In many cases the young person has not only to contend with the disapproval and disappointment of parents but also rejection by his contemporaries, and it is no wonder that some of them are forced into exhibitionism in order to draw attention to themselves.

(v) A complete lack of knowledge and understanding of industrial discipline and what work involves. This is due to inadequate preparation by parents, teachers and all who are responsible for the child's education. Physical assistance and moral support are often so readily available that the child has no conception of just how dependent he is on others and he naturally expects the same unquestioning service when he is at work. Parents often set a lower standard of discipline for their handicapped child, simply because he is handicapped, and the child again expects this to apply at work as well. Because of his limited experience and restricted life he often has no conception of what a factory or office is like, though many schools for the handicapped are now including trips and visits to factories, etc., as part of the curriculum. This should help to prepare the young people,

particularly if discussions are held after the visits.

- (vi) An unwillingness to undertake manual repetitive work because the family consider it socially unacceptable. Parents frequently fail to recognise, or refuse to accept the fact that this type of work may be the maximum for their child, either because of the physical, or more often the intellectual handicap, or a combination of both.

2. Additional Handicaps

So often, though the physical handicap may be mild, there are other disabilities which cause complications and add difficulties with employment.

- (i) Epilepsy and Petit Mal. The problem of placing epileptics in employment are well known, though much is being done to influence public opinion and remove the widespread prejudices that are common in this field. Even when the fits are under control there is still a reluctance on the part of an employer to take on the responsibility of possible physical damage to the epileptic in addition to the disruption that is almost always caused amongst other workers when a fit occurs. Where epilepsy accompanies hemiplegia the problems are doubled. In many cases where the attacks are controlled by drugs the reactions seem to be slowed up, and this, together with the lack of speed caused by the physical handicap, adds to the difficulty of finding a suitable job. The personality idiosyncracies which often accompany epilepsy do not make the problem any easier.
- (ii) Sensory and perceptual defects are usually impossible to diagnose without specialist advice, and an employer is often confused by the apparent stupidity of an otherwise intelligent hemiplegic. The range of jobs is obviously limited when these defects cannot be corrected.
- (iii) Deafness and speech defects limit the types of work which might otherwise be suitable for hemiplegics, but these handicaps are usually easily recognisable, and once accepted do not present insurmountable problems. There is, however, difficulty in obtaining suitable training for deaf hemiplegics, as they do not fit into the normal training schemes for the deaf and as yet there are no special

facilities for this group at Sher-rards.

- (iv) Lack of concentration and distractibility. These defects have been included under this heading as in the majority of cases they appear to be due to the overall handicap rather than to a pure lack of interest in or indifference to work. This is a particular problem with hemiplegics, many of whom seem to drift off into trances at frequent intervals and need constant supervision in their work. Many lightly physically handicapped and reasonably intelligent hemiplegics are completely unemployable because of these characteristics.

3. Performance

- (i) Manual dexterity. The degree of mobility and dexterity in the hemiplegic arm and hand have obviously to be taken into consideration in job selection and as most equipment is designed for right-handed people it is more difficult to find openings for those with right hemiplegia, particularly if the candidate is naturally right-handed. These problems can, however, be overcome, and an employer is often prepared to make quite considerable adjustments and adaptations to machinery if the candidate is equipped for the job in other respects.
- (ii) Physical mobility is not usually a problem with hemiplegics, and many are able to stand and walk in their work in spite of their leg disability.
- (iii) Speed. A general slowness in reactions, together with the restricted speed due to the physical handicap mean that in the majority of jobs the hemiplegic is bound to be slower than his non-handicapped workmates. In some work, for example various types of inspection, this is an advantage as accuracy is more important than speed. Mechanised operations, where the machine does most of the intricate work are also more suitable than hand assembly or packing, and there is more likelihood of the hemiplegic achieving the required speed if he is operating a machine tool. Lack of speed is the reason nearly all our candidates give for having been discharged from a job or for having failed in training. This is not always the case, though it may be that the employer finds

it easier to put this across than to tell the employee about a personal-ity problem, and the spastic him-self feels less blame for failing to work quickly enough.

- (iv) Adaptability. As jobs so often have to be specially selected for these young people, they are generally very restricted in their work mobility and cannot be easily transferred from one job to another. This is sometimes a serious disadvantage to an employer, particularly in work where there are short runs or when there is redundancy. Provided that the handicapped employee fits into the team in every other way, however, the employer is usually prepared to make allowance and to retain him on a specific job.
- (v) Safety. Every employer is understandably concerned about the possible danger that might be caused by placing a handicapped person on machine work. Some employers are not prepared to take the risk at all, others are willing to consider a candidate if he is properly trained. Obviously many of the factors mentioned above have a particular bearing on the desirability of placing a hemiplegic on any form of mechanised work—epilepsy, lack of concentration, distractibility, disregard of the works rules. Every precaution must obviously be taken to avoid accidents but it has been generally found that most spastics are safely conscious and extra cautious in all their movements.
- (vi) Wages. An employer sometimes feels unable to pay a handicapped employee the full rate for the job, either because his rate of production is lower than the average or because he is not able to satisfy the full requirements of the job. Where this is justified special rates can be approved, as many wage agreements have relaxation clauses. Many employers are not aware of these provisions but, with a little pressure they can usually be persuaded to make application to the Ministry of Labour. The handicapped employee is nearly always prepared to accept a little less than the average wage, particularly if the reason is carefully explained to him.

[A summary of how these problems might be overcome will be published in the next issue].

PERSONALITY PARADE



NEW HEADMASTER FOR IRTON HALL SCHOOL

MR. JOHN NELSON, a prominent member of the Whitehaven Association of the National Union of Teachers and a man with wide experience of handicapped children, has been appointed headmaster of the Society's residential school, Irton Hall, Holmrook, Cumberland. He succeeds Mr. A. Lubran who is leaving the Society to return to London, his native city, to take up an appointment.

Mr. Nelson and his wife, who has been appointed Senior Matron at Irton Hall, are well known in Cumberland as headmaster and matron of Ingwell, the local education authority's residential special school at Moor Row, Whitehaven, which they helped to establish in 1953. Much of the success of Ingwell can be attributed to the hard work and understanding of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson.

The new headmaster is also widely known in National Union of Teachers' circles. In 1959 he was elected president of the Whitehaven Association of the N.U.T. and for several years he has been the Cumberland County Delegate (Special Schools) to the Union's national sectional meetings in London.

Third School

This will be his third headmastership. Before his appointment to Ingwell he was headmaster of Lancashire's Broughton Tower Residential Special School for Delicate Children. In addition to being a qualified teacher, Mr. Nelson is also a member of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, having trained at Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

Because of his long experience of working with handicapped children he has been a popular lecturer to different organisations in his leisure time.

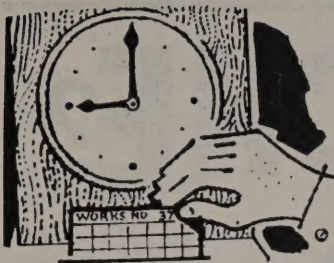
In the last war Mr. Nelson served in the Royal Navy as a lieutenant. Most of his service was in Fleet minesweepers, but towards the end of the war he served at H.M.S. *Macaw*, the naval station at Bootle, Cumberland. It was there that he met Mrs. Nelson who was then serving as a nurse. They now have two young daughters, both attending Whitehaven Grammar School.

Mr. Nelson is a keen golfer and has represented Seascale Golf Club on several occasions.

The new headmaster and his wife are looking forward with enthusiasm to taking up their new appointments with the Society at Irton Hall School on May 1, and they are delighted to be remaining in Cumberland where they have made so many friends.



Above is a photograph of Mrs. A. Mansel-Dyer, who has been appointed the Society's first woman Regional Officer. She will be responsible for the Western Region of England. Details of Mrs. Mansel-Dyer's career were given in last month's issue.



We have news of the following people who have either been placed in employment, or who have changed their jobs:—

Gordon Black, from **Shetland**, after attending a course of training at Stockport is now employed as a Tickopres operator with a firm in Glasgow.

John Bradley, from **Glasgow**, who also attended the Tickopres training course at Stockport, is working with a local firm.

John Brown, from **Huntingdon**, is employed as a messenger for the local County Council department.

William Clark, from **Glasgow**, is also employed locally as a Tickopres operator after completing his training at Stockport.

Ronald Crump, from **London**, is working as a general odd-job assistant in a factory in Tulse Hill.

Rosemary Dilnot, from **Birchington**, who also trained at Stockport, is working as a comptometer operator and general office assistance with a firm in Margate.

Frederick Dockerill, of **Bethnal Green**, has changed his job and is now doing clerical work in a local factory.

Susan Greenway, from **Aylesbury**, is working locally as a cinema usherette.

Frederick Rushby, from **Grimsby**, has changed his job but is still engaged in making wooden boxes for a local fish-curing firm.

Archibald Savage, from **Glasgow**, who has been working in London for some time as a capstan lathe operator, has moved to another light engineering firm.

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A number of new Homeworkers joined the scheme in time to help with the rush of Christmas orders, and they include:—

Sheila Brown

Joan Coechin

Colin Crump

Barbara Dawson

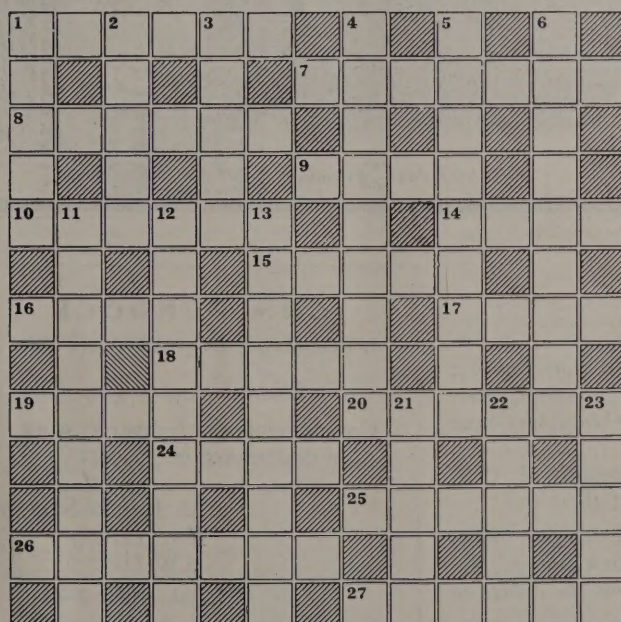
Mary Hallett

George Howland

Keith Smith

Valerie Tyler

CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 22



ACROSS

1. Tuneful repository for troubles. 6.
7. Troy succumbed to his horse-men so to speak. 7.
8. It's almost away yet lingers. 6.
9. Town whose inclination is towards fame. 4.
10. Island home of 7. 6.
14. Oh my, oh my, The Wind in the Willows! 4.
15. Quarterstaff modern Indian version. 5.
16. One of many in 20. 4.
17. The ideal time to surrender? 4.
18. In which the commander is supreme. 5.
19. It has to be up at 17. 4.
20. "I met a fool i' the . . . , A motley fool." A.Y.L.I. 6.
24. Rode slap into a river. 4.
25. No mean city! 6.
26. Unpopular plant in the Services. 7.
27. Master exponent of civil disobedience. 6.

DOWN

1. In which 1 ac. is a private issue. 5.
2. Iago's purse in his own estimation. 5.
3. A subject of Montezuma. 5.
4. One who takes any ordinary squabble to court? 9.
5. The youthful part of a continent perhaps. 4, 5.
6. They may help successive generations "get weaving"! 9.
11. "Store a rod."—for bulls no doubt. 9.
12. Biographical insets as it were. 9.
13. A clock for the "angels". 9.
21. A soak befuddled by Japanese port. 5.
22. Medea's education partly reduced tension. 5.
23. His good-bye was very self-composed! 5.

Group Alterations

Change of Officials:

THE DEWSBURY & DISTRICT SPASTICS SOCIETY

Hon. Secretary:
MRS. M. SPEEDEN,
3 Langdale Road,
Dewsbury.

WEST KENT SPASTICS SOCIETY

Treasurer:
S. V. GILBEY, ESQ.,
6 Hayes Chase,
West Wickham,
Kent. Tel: Springpark 7489.

Change of Address:

BURNLEY AREA & ROSSENDALE SPASTICS SOCIETY

Hon. Treasurer:
H. TATE, ESQ.,
c/o District Bank Ltd.,
Grimshaw Street,
Burnley.

LEEDS & DISTRICT SPASTICS SOCIETY

Secretary:
CYRIL K. WISEMAN, ESQ.,
35 Robb Street,
Leeds 11.

Solution to January Crossword

ACROSS	DOWN
4. Macabre	1. Baseness
8. Average	2. Demerara
9. Torment	3. Paradise
10. Eyewash	4. Methane
11. Ariadne	5. Carried
12. Elation	6. Breeder
13. Endorse	7. Extreme
17. Scared	14. Nothing
21. Artfully	15. Oculist
22. Hosier	16. Sultana
23. Inimical	18. Clouds
24. Adhere	19. Rained
25. Nightjar	20. Darien

parents are abroad. They're good company for David, as well as helping financially. Being with the boys has encouraged David to learn table tennis, snooker and billiards, which in turn helps his physical co-ordination and social relations. Already he has learnt to ride a bicycle, plays cricket, football and tennis.

Says a proud Mrs. Pye, "Since coming here the improvement in David is

marked. From a slouching, thin, delicate boy he has become more confident, healthier and walks with his shoulders held well back."

The Pye's can be proud of their achievement and proud of their son.

[Since this article was written, fierce gales destroyed the wooden house. We hope the Pyes will soon be able to secure another.—Ed.]

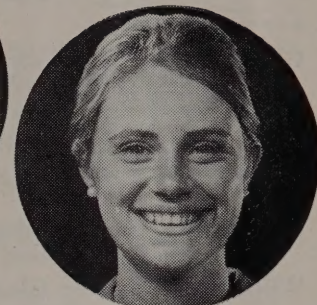
HEADACHE?



DISCOMFORT GOES!




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(Continued from p. 15)

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AFFILIATED GROUPS AND LOCAL CENTRES OF THE N.S.S.

Eastern Region

Chesterfield and District Spastics Society **TC**

Corby and District Spastics Society **T**
Derby and District Branch of NSS **T**
Grantham & District Friends of Spastics
Grimby, Cleethorpes and District Spastics
Society **T**
Ipswich and East Suffolk Spastics Society **T**

Leicester and Leicestershire Spastics
Society **TE**
Lincoln Branch
Mansfield and District Friends of Spastics
Group

Norfolk and Norwich Spastic Association
Northampton and County Spastics Society **TE**

Nottingham Friends of Spastics Group
(Sub-Committee of Nottingham District
Cripples Guild) **TEC**

Peterborough and District Spastics Group
Scunthorpe and District Spastic Society **O**
Stamford and District Branch of NSS
(Regional Officer: H. G. Knight, 58
Park Road, Peterborough, Northants.
Tel: 67045)

Midland Region

Cannock Chase Spastic Association
Coventry and District Spastics Society **R**
Dudley and District Spastic Group **O**
North Staffordshire Spastic Association **T**
Shrewsbury and District Spastics Group
Stafford and District Spastic Association
Worcester and District Branch of NSS
(Officer to be appointed)

North-Eastern Region

Barnsley and District Association of the
NSS
Bradford and District Branch of the NSS
Castleford and District Spastics
Committee
Darlington and District Spastics Society
Dewsbury and District Spastics Society
Goole and District Spastics Association
Halifax and District Spastic Group **W**
Huddersfield and District Spastics Society **T**
Hull Group, The Friends of Spastics
Society in Hull and District **H**
Leeds and District Spastics Society
Pontefract and District Spastics
Association
Rawmarsh and Parkgate Spastics Society
Sheffield and District Spastics Society **T**
Sunderland and District Spastics Society
Tees-side Parents and Friends of Spastics
TE
York and District Spastic Group **T**
(Reg. Off. R. J. F. Whyte, NSS, Tre-
velyan Chambers, 7 Boar Lane, Leeds 1.
Tel: 33933)

North Western Region

Barrow-in-Furness and District Spastic
and Handicapped Children's Society **C**
Birkenhead Spastic Children's Society **TE**
Blackburn and District Spastics Group
Blackpool and Fylde Spastic Group **CW**
Bollington, Macclesfield and District
Committee for Spastic Children
Bolton and District Group of the NSS **TE**

Burnley Area and Rossendale Spastics
Society
Chester and District Spastics Assoc. **TE**
Crewe and District Spastics Society **TO**
Crosby and District Spastics Society
Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness
Spastics Society
Lancaster, Morecambe and District
Spastics Society
Manchester and District Spastics Society **TE**

Oldham & District Spastics Society **T**
Preston and District Spastic Group **T**
Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics
Society **RTEC**
Southport, Formby and District Spastics
Society
Stockport, East Cheshire and High Peak
Spastics Society **TEW**
Urmston and District Group of the NSS **T**

Warrington Group for the Welfare of
Spastics
Widnes Spastics Fellowship Group
(Reg Off: T. H. Keighley, 20 Brazen-
nose Street, Manchester.
Tel: Blackfriars 6130)

Northern Home Counties Region

Bedford and District **TOW**
Bishop's Stortford and District Group,
Herts Spastics Society
Central Middlesex Spastics Welfare
Society **W**
Clacton and District Group
Colchester and District Group
East Herts Group, Herts Spastics Society
East London Spastic Society **H**
Epping Forest and District Branch of NSS **T**

Essex Group of the NSS
Harlow and District Branch
Hatfield and District Group, Herts
Spastics Society
Hemel Hempstead and District Group,
Herts Spastics Society
Hitchin and District Friends of Spastics
Herts Spastics Society
Ilford, Romford and District Spastics
Association **O**
Luton, Dunstable and District Spastics
Group **T**
Maidenhead Friends of Spastics Group
North London Area Association of Parents
and Friends of Spastics **T**
North-West London Group of the NSS
Oxfordshire Spastics Welfare Society
of the NSS **TE**
Reading and Berkshire Spastics Society **TE**
Slough and District Spastics Welfare
Society
Southend-on-Sea and District Spastics
Society **TEO**
South-West Middlesex Group of the NSS **T**

St. Albans and District Group, Herts
Spastics Society
Walthamstow and District Spastics Society
Watford and District Group, Herts
Spastics Society
Welwyn Garden City and District Group,
Herts Spastics Society
Wycombe and District Spastics Society **T**
(Reg. Off: R. C. Lemarie, 32 High St.,
Watford.
Tel: 41565)

South-Eastern Region

Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastics
Society **TE**
Brighton, Hove and District Branch **TO**
Central Surrey Group **W**
Croydon and District Branch **TEW**

East Sussex Group (Hastings and
District) **T**
Folkestone and District Branch of NSS
Isle of Wight Group **TE**
Maidstone Area Spastic Group **OT**
Medway Towns Branch of NSS
North Hants and West Surrey Group **TE**
North Surrey Group **W**
North-West Kent Spastics Group **W**
North-West Surrey Group **TE**
Portsmouth and District Spastics Society **TE**

Southampton and District Spastics
Association **TOW**
South-East London Group **T**
South-East Surrey Spastics Group
(Redhill) **TO**
South London Group
South-West London and District Group
South-West Surrey Group **TE**
Thanet Group
Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Area
Group
West Kent Spastics Society—Incorporat-
ing Bromley and District Spastics Group
(Reg. Off: H. J. I. Cunningham, 55
London Road, Horsham, Sussex)

Welsh Region (including Mon.)

Cardiff and District Spastic Association **TO**
Colwyn Bay and District Spastics Society
Conway and District Branch of NSS
Kenfig Hill and District Spastics Society **TO**

Merthyr Tydfil and District Spastics
Society
Pontypridd and District Group
Swansea and District Spastics Association **TW**
(Reg. Off: B. Kingsley-Davies, 64 St.
Mary Street, Cardiff.
Tel: Sully 384)

Western Region

Bridgewater and District Friends of
Spastics Association **TE**
Bristol Spastics Association **CTOW**
Cheltenham Spastic Aid Association **ET**
Exeter and District Spastics Society
Plymouth Spastic (CP) Association **ETW**
Swindon and District Spastic Society
Yeovil and District Spastics Welfare
Society
(Reg. Off: Mrs. A. Mansel-Dyer, St.
John House, Park Street, Taunton,
Somerset.
Tel: 81678)

Jersey Branch of the NSS, Channel
Islands

Chief Regional Officer:

(A. M. Frank, 12 Park Cresc., London,
W.1.)

Local Projects Secretary:

(D. Lancaster-Gaye, 12 Park Cresc.,
London, W.1.)

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